Buying of arms by Pakistan

42. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 17th February, 1990 under the caption "Pakistan Buying arms in a big way"; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Government has seen the media report.

(b) Government keep a close watch on all developments having a bearing on our national security and take appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness.

Raising the retirement age of Government employees

43. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have raised the age limit for the Civil Service Examination (IAS) upto 31 years;

(b) if so, whether Government also propose to increase the retirement age of Government employees from 58 to 60 years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) The upper age limit for the general candidates is 31 years for the Civil Services Exam. 1990. From 1991 it would be 28 years.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Government have accepted the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission that the general age of retirement should continue to be 58 years.

Defence expenditure by Pakistan

44. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan is spending 29.5 per cent of Central Government expenditure (CGE) on defence as compared to 21.5 per cent of Central Government Expenditure spent by India; and

(b) if so the steps Government are taking to strengthen its defence preparedness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) According to the available information, the share of Pakistan's Defence expenditure to Central Government expenditure is well above the figure quoted in the question. Government monitor all developments impinging on the country's security and initiate appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness.

Establishment of electronic manufacturing units in Orissa

45. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some applications have been received from the Government and the entreprenurs of Orissa to establish units manufacturing Electronic items during the last 3 years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken to expedite the finalisation of these applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the last